

St Paul and St Timothy's Catholic Infant School

Our Vision for History

At **St Paul and St Timothy's**, our vision is for every child to become a thoughtful historian who understands that the past shapes the world we live in today. We believe that **History** is a vital subject that nurtures curiosity, critical thinking, and a sense of identity. Through exploring significant people, events, and changes, our children develop a secure understanding of how the past influences their own lives and the wider world. They are encouraged to ask questions, explore evidence, make comparisons, and understand cause and effect, helping them to become reflective, informed citizens.

Intent

Our history curriculum, underpinned by the **Cornerstones Model Curriculum**, is designed to inspire a fascination with the past—locally, nationally, and globally. It aims to help children make sense of history as a chronological narrative, understanding key events, significant individuals, and how societies have changed over time.

Our intent is that children will:

- Develop a strong sense of **chronology**, recognising the order of events and how the past fits together.
- Understand how their **local area of West Derby and Liverpool** connects to wider historical narratives.
- Learn about **events beyond living memory**, as well as changes within living memory, and how these have shaped the world today.
- Explore the lives of **significant individuals** who have influenced British and global history.
- Develop skills in **historical enquiry**, using evidence from primary and secondary sources to ask and answer thoughtful questions.
- Build **critical thinking skills**, including making comparisons, interpreting evidence, identifying cause and consequence, and understanding different perspectives.
- Develop historical vocabulary to confidently discuss and explain past events.
- Appreciate diversity in history, understanding multiple viewpoints and experiences.

Implementation

Our history curriculum is built around the **Cornerstones sequenced projects**, ensuring a clear progression of historical knowledge and enquiry skills from EYFS through Key Stage 1.

Key features of our implementation include:

In the Early Years:

- History is embedded within **Understanding the World**, helping children develop an awareness of the past and present in their own lives and communities.

- Carefully chosen stories support children’s understanding of **chronology**, change, and similarity over time.
- Children discuss family traditions, past experiences, and begin to use simple timelines.

In Key Stage 1:

- Pupils study a range of topics, including **significant individuals, events beyond living memory, and changes within living memory**, with projects such as *Movers and Shakers*, *School Days*, and *Magnificent monarchs*.
- Lessons focus on helping children understand **how the past is different from the present**, and why events happened as they did.
- Historical skills are developed through exploring artefacts, photographs, books, and digital resources.
- Opportunities for **handling real artefacts**, visiting historical sites, and engaging in enrichment experiences enhance learning.
- History is taught using an **enquiry-based approach**, with children encouraged to think like historians—asking questions, gathering evidence, discussing interpretations, and making connections.
- A strong focus on vocabulary ensures children can confidently articulate their learning.

Inclusion and Diversity:

- We ensure that history is representative of diverse perspectives, avoiding single narratives.
- Lessons encourage children to think about the contributions of people from different backgrounds, faiths, and cultures.

British Values:

- Our history curriculum helps children understand the roots of **democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect**, promoting thoughtful discussion about rights, responsibilities, and fairness.

Impact

By the end of Key Stage 1, children at St Paul and St Timothy’s will:

- Have a secure understanding of key historical events, people, and changes in Britain and the wider world.
- Be able to place events and individuals in a simple chronological framework.
- Ask and answer thoughtful questions using evidence to support their ideas.
- Use historical vocabulary with confidence to describe, discuss, and explain the past.
- Demonstrate critical thinking by making comparisons, understanding cause and consequence, and evaluating sources.
- Understand how history shapes the world around them and develop empathy, curiosity, and a sense of identity.